

# South Carolina is Just Right for High Tech and Information Services

Strengthened by the presence of some of the nation's highest concentrations of engineers and skilled workers, the high-tech and information services industry represents a vital, growing sector in South Carolina. Already home to a number of multi-tenant data centers and talented IT professionals, South Carolina's information technology sector employs approximately 30,000 people today, with that number on the rise.

Innovative companies like Benefitfocus and PeopleMatter have rapidly grown from start-ups to leading technology solutions providers employing thousands of South Carolinians. In 2013, Google announced a \$600 million expansion of its state-of-the-art data center in South Carolina. Since becoming operational in 2007, Google has invested more than \$1 billion in its Berkeley County data center, which employs around 150 South Carolinians.

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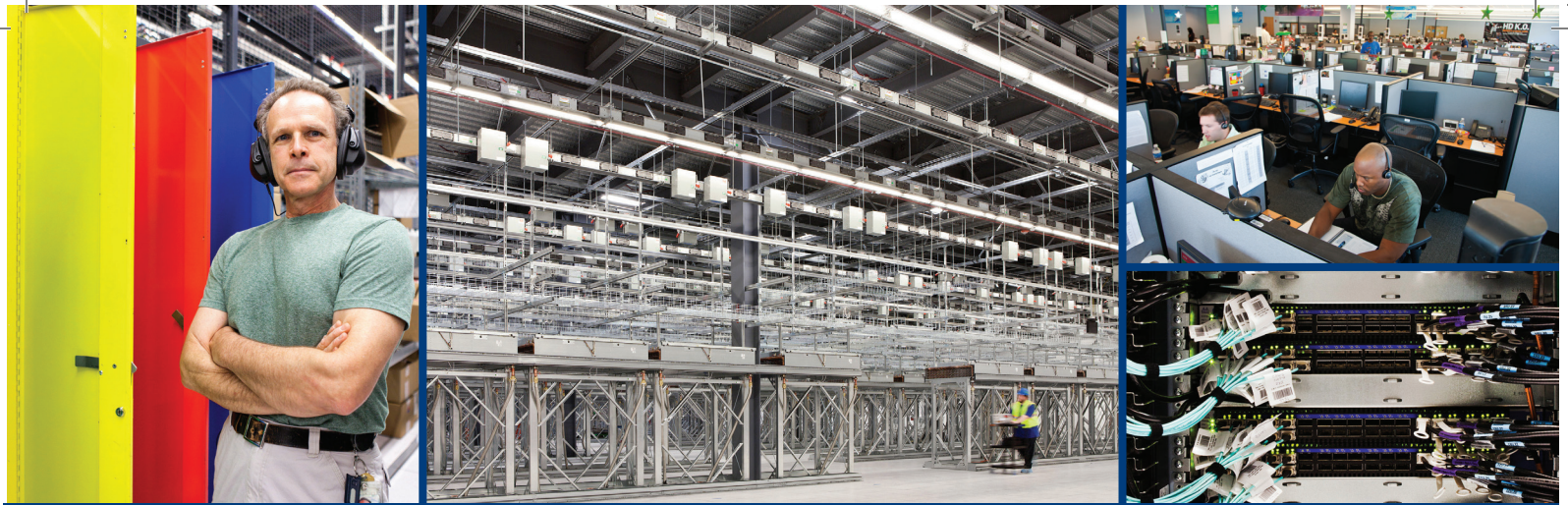


South Carolina

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## The High-Tech and Information Services Industry: A Thriving Sector

### Energy Infrastructure

When it comes to providing reliable and affordable energy, South Carolina is a powerhouse, with some of the lowest industrial power rates in the nation. Business-friendly regulations and smart investments in energy infrastructure have created a reliable and affordable energy network throughout the Palmetto State. Industrial power costs in the state average only 6.02 cents per kilowatt hour, the lowest in the Southeast.

Due to past investments in nuclear power infrastructure, South Carolina maintains stable energy costs. In fact South Carolina is the 3rd largest net generator of energy from nuclear power.

South Carolina also has multiple providers with lit and dark fiber cable networks including AT&T, Sprint, SCANA, Time Warner and Century Link.

### Favorable Tax Climate and Incentives

South Carolina offers the following tax advantages:

- No state property tax
- No local income tax
- No inventory tax
- No wholesale tax
- No unitary tax on worldwide profits
- Favorable corporate income tax structure and one of the lowest rates in the nation.

### Data Center Tax Incentives

In addition, South Carolina offers a host of specific tax incentives to qualifying data centers choosing to locate or expand their operations in the state:

- Uniquely low thresholds for capital investment and job creation at a single data center
- Sales tax exemption on computer equipment, including hardware, software, cooling systems and electricity

**Since 2012, companies in the high-tech and information service industry have announced over 5,500 jobs in South Carolina and have invested more than \$823 million in the state.**

### New and Expanding High-Tech Companies

Company	Jobs	Capital Investment
Google	-	\$600 Million
SPARC	310	\$11 Million
BenefitFocus	1,500	-
Servosity	30	-
Shutterfly	380	\$60.1 million
Diversified Information Technologies	25	\$5.825 million

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